**10** / 552940 JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 OCT **2003** 

OFGS File No: P/3240-105

English Translation of claims to International Preliminary Examination Report PCT/EP2004/003162 filed 25 March 2004.

What is claimed is

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1. A molded body obtained via a shaping process that takes place under pressure, composed of

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- at least one plant- or animal-derived fiber material,
- at least one thermoplastic or thermoset from the group of polyethylene, polypropylene, PVC, melamine, polyurethane, polyester, polyamide, polymethyl methacrylate, polyvinyl acetate, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polybutene, and
- at least one water-binding biopolymer,

and also, based on the total weight, if appropriate from 0.2 to 20% by weight of plasticizers, fillers, adhesion promoters, lubricants, heat stabilizers and/or UV stabilizers, antioxidants, or flame retardants,

## characterized in that

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its water content immediately after its production is > 8.0% by weight, preferably  $\geq$  8.5% by weight, particularly preferably  $\geq$  9.0% by weight, and in that it is not expanded.

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- 2. The molded body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that its water content is up to 15% by weight, preferably up to 12% by weight.
- 30 3. The molded body as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that it comprises an amount of from 5 to 95% by weight, in particular from 30 to 80% by weight, of plant-derived fiber material, e.g. wood fibers, wood flour, wood chips, cellulose-containing materials, such as waste paper, hemp, straw, flax, agricultural fiber materials, or mixtures thereof.
  - 4. The molded body as claimed in any of claims 1 to {00724474.1}

3, characterized in that the amount present of the thermoplastic or thermoset or mixture thereof is from 2 to 90% by weight, in particular from 5 to 50% by weight.

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- 5. The molded body as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it comprises an amount of from 5 to 50% by weight, in particular from 10 to 30% by weight, of water-binding biopolymer, e.g. starch, starch-containing plant parts, pectin, lignin, hemicellulose, chitin, or mixture thereof.
- 6. The molded body as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, **characterized in that** its density is from 0.8 to 2.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, preferably from 1.0 to 1.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.
- The molded body as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it is obtainable via a shaping process that takes place under pressure after a plastic or thermoplastic forming process that takes place under pressure.
  - 8. claimed in claim 7, The molded body as it characterized in that can be produced via compression molding, pelletizing, injection-compression molding, or injection molding.
    - 9. A process for production of a molded body as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that

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• raw materials composed of plant- and/or animal-derived fiber material whose moisture content is from 5 to 20% by weight, preferably from 8 to 15% by weight, of at least one thermoplastic or thermoset from the group of polyethylene, polypropylene, PVC, melamine, polyurethane, polyester, polyamide, polymethyl methacrylate, polyvinyl acetate, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polybutene, of at least

one water-binding biopolymer, and, based on the total weight, if appropriate, from 0.2 to 20% by weight of promoters, plasticizers, fillers, adhesion lubricants, heat stabilizers and/or UV stabilizers, retardants, antioxidants, or flame appropriate, water are mixed to give a raw material mixture whose moisture content is > 8% by weight, preferably up to 20% by weight, particularly preferably up to 15% by weight,

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- the raw material mixture is, if appropriate, heated,
- the raw material mixture, if appropriate heated, is, if appropriate, formed plastically or thermoplastically under increased pressure, and also, if appropriate, with increased temperature to give a molding composition,
- the raw material mixture, if appropriate heated, or
  the molding composition is shaped under pressure, and also, if appropriate, with increased temperature, to give a non-expanded molded body.
- 10. The process as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the shaping process that takes place under pressure takes place via compression molding, pelletizing, injection-compression molding, or injection molding.